

REMARKS:

The claims in the application are 1-12 and Claims 21-29 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to independent Claim 1 and Claim 29 introduced herein is explicitly found, e.g., in the third paragraph on page 2 and drawing of the present application, while Claims 27 and 28 introduced herein find support in the fourth paragraph on page 2 of the present application. Claim 9 has been amended into independent form, while Claims 21-26 introduced herein correspond to several of the previously-pending dependent claims and depend from different claims. Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the art rejection of the claims.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by JP-06003015 to Kobayishi et al while Claims 5, 6, 9 and 15-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over this reference. A rudimentary English translation of Kobayishi et al was appended to the Office Action. However, it is respectfully submitted the presently claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Kobayishi et al for the following reasons (reference will be made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

The present invention provides improved, central control of two refrigeration units 1, 3 from a single operating control unit or element 7, resulting

in cost and operational savings, and improved power conservation. The respective refrigeration units 1,3 can be individually controlled and monitored by the single control unit or element to optimize cooling condition in each individual refrigeration unit 1, 3. In a preferred embodiment, the refrigeration units 1,3 are free-standing, i.e., separated from one another and only linked by the common operating unit 7.

These and other advantages are explicitly attained by the presently claimed invention which is directed to a refrigerator and/or freezer system having at least two refrigeration and/or freezer units 1,3 each having its own refrigeration component, a common operating unit 7 for a minimum of two refrigerator and/or freezer units 1,3, and a signal transmission component 5,13 constituting the sole interconnection between the refrigeration and/or freezer units 1,3 for transmitting signals between the operating unit 7 and the refrigeration and/or freezer units 1,3.

The features of the presently claimed invention together with the accompanying advantages attained thereby are neither taught nor suggested by Kobayishi et al for the following reasons.

Kobayishi et al are directed to a system 6 for controlling a plurality of refrigerators 1, 2 in which a first refrigerator 1 is connected by a cord 3 to a power source 7, and a second refrigerator 2 is connected to the power source 7 through the first refrigerator by the separate cord 4, and also to the control panel 6 by separate input/output data line 5. This system taught in Kobayishi et al is explicitly designed as an improvement over a prior art system shown in Fig. 4 of

this reference where refrigerators 1 and 2, each having its own control panel 6, are separately connected to power source 7 through respective cords 3 and 4.

Accordingly, Kobayishi et al fail to suggest the present invention as recited, e.g., in independent Claim 1 where refrigeration and/or freezer units 1,3 are interconnected solely by signal transmission component 5,13 for controlling operation of the individual units 1,3 by the operating unit 7, and the accompanying advantages attained thereby. Concerning Claim 9, which has been amended into independent form herein, the Examiner acknowledges in the second paragraph on page 4 of the Office Action Kobayishi et al fail to teach wireless signal transmission, but then takes “official notice” wireless signal transmission is well-known and hence obvious to incorporate into the system of Kobayishi et al.

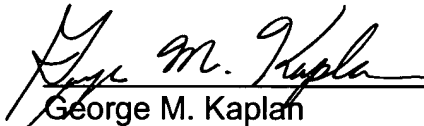
Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §2144.03, it is respectfully requested the Examiner provide documentary evidence establishing it would allegedly be obvious to incorporate a wireless signal transmission unit in the system of Kobayishi et al. In this regard, it is respectfully pointed out Applicant is not claiming to be the first to invent a wireless signal transmission unit; however, Applicant is the first to utilize such a wireless signal transmission unit 5, 13 for transmitting signals to individual refrigeration/freezer units 1, 3 from a central control unit 7 to improve and facilitate control of the individual refrigeration/freezer units 1, 3, save operating costs and reduce power consumption. Such features and accompanying advantages are not suggested by Kobayishi et al, even assuming, *arguendo*, utilizing wireless transmission in a refrigeration system would be obvious.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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